

*effectively administer.* NFS currently administers four shorebased processors, 17 catcher/processors, and one mothership that are located on shore and at sea. The vessel numbers represent about 55 percent of the vessel processing capacity in the BSAI. NFS could administer 40 processors and associated catcher vessels that might deliver to them. In 1995, NFS processed 44,249 lb (20 metric tons (mt)) of salmon for distribution under a food bank program. To date in 1996, NFS has processed 42,767 lb (19.4 mt) of salmon. This amount will increase substantially during the remainder of the year. NMFS does not have information to convert accurately these weights to numbers of salmon. Nonetheless, assuming a recovery rate of 30 percent, and an average recovered weight of 8 lb (3.63 kg) per fish, the above weights could represent about 18,000 fish.

3. *The anticipated level of salmon bycatch based on salmon bycatch from previous years.* During 1995, about 45,000 salmon were caught in the BSAI management area by trawl vessels. About 51 percent of these, or 23,000 salmon, were caught from the middle of August through the end of calendar year 1995.

4. *The potential number of vessels and processors participating in the groundfish trawl fisheries.* About 10 shorebased processors, 60 trawl catcher/processors, five processing motherships, and about 50 trawl catcher vessels operate in the BSAI management area.

This Authorized Distributor Permit is in effect for a 3-year period from the date of publication of this announcement, unless suspended or revoked. It may not be transferred; however, it may be renewed following the application procedures in § 679.26.

If the authorized distributor modifies any information on participants or delivery locations on the SDP permit application submitted under § 679.26(a)(1)(xi) or (a)(1)(xiii), the authorized distributor must submit a modified list of participants or delivery locations to the Regional Director.

This permit may be suspended, modified, or revoked under 15 CFR part 904 for noncompliance with terms and conditions specified in the permit or for violation of § 679.26 or other regulations in 50 CFR part 679.

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 12, 1996.  
Richard H. Schaefer,  
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
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BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 072296D]

#### Endangered Species; Permits

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application for a research permit (P618)

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Thomas S. Squiers, Jr., of the Maine Department of Marine Resources (P618) has applied for a permit for scientific research on shortnose sturgeon.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received on or before September 16, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508-281-9250).

Written comments, or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Application (P618) requests a permit under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227). The applicant requests a five-year permit to capture, examine, and tag 500 listed shortnose sturgeon in Maine waters. Some would be tagged with radio or ultrasonic transmitters, and some would have tissue samples taken for DNA analysis. The purpose of the research is to determine migratory movements and to help identify spawning, feeding, and overwintering areas.

Those individuals requesting a hearing should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions

contained in this application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: August 12, 1996.  
Margaret Lorenz,  
Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-20977 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]  
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[I.D. 080896C]

#### Marine Mammals; Permit No. 926 (P562)

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Issuance of amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific research permit No. 926 submitted by Dr. Robin Baird, Marine Mammal Research Group, Box 6244, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8P 5L5, has been granted.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Suite 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 31, 1996, notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 27337) that an amendment of permit No. 926, issued June 10, 1994 (59 FR 31217), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 926 authorizes the take (i.e., harassment) of up to 300 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) annually, up to 25 of which may be radio tagged via suction cups annually, in waters off Washington state, over a five year period. The purpose of the research is to study killer whale behavior and ecology. The Permit has been amended to authorize the harassment and suction cup radio tagging of Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), in order to study that species' diving behavior. Activities will be undertaken in the waters of Juan